



Central Police Chronicle

Central Regional Command – (915) 577-5000 ?PAR Section – (915) 838-8013

August 2004
Volume 1, Issue 7

Special Interest Articles:

- From the Graveyard
- Elderly Abuse
- Prevention
- Dealing with Stress?
- Most Wanted

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CENTRAL REGIONAL COMMAND CENTER' S

National Night Out

Neighbors Come Out in Support!

Tuesday August 3, 2004

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Turn on your porch light, walk around your neighborhood, or have a block party...

The El Paso Police Department is meeting with Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the city in order to: 1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; 2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; 3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and 4) Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Commander's Corner

By Acting Commander, Commander Raymundo Rodriguez



As you probably know, Mayor Joe Wardy has selected Richard Wiles to be our new Chief of Police, or better stated as the selected one to continue the positive work that he began when he assumed the position of Interim Chief of Police. Moreover, as a command, work that we are proud to continue. As part of our proactive efforts, in the coming months we will be focusing on areas of enforcement that reduce the risk of the occurrence of more serious or tragic incidents. This brings to mind, two very important groups, children and the elderly, both of which are in need of our attention.

Now that summer is almost over our children are preparing to return for another year of school and preparatory activities, such as football, cheerleading, and other sports practices have already begun. It is the time of the year for us – as parents, providers, and protectors – to change our routine. A change that includes dropping off and picking up our children at school and other related activities;

more importantly, a change that causes us to pay special attention in school zones and around the neighborhood. As parents, we try to teach our children to be careful and obey the traffic laws, but there is always the chance that one may forget what they were taught. That is why it is so important for us to pay special attention while driving through School zones. Under this month's "Traffic Tip," another important school year related law is highlighted, "Passing a School Bus."

Next, I want to briefly highlight another important topic, "Elderly Abuse"; an issue that has received a lot of attention lately and one that we are focusing on with much to do. This month the newsletter features an article on "elderly abuse" and highlights prevention activities of our Elderly and Domestic Abuse Unit, which has begun a campaign to educate and support the elderly community.

As the old pun states, "An ounce of prevention is worth a lifetime of cure!" So let's prevent...Until next month, watch your children and be safe!

Stories of the Month From the Graveyard...

By Lieutenant Hank DiMatteo

I was almost reduced to handwriting this article for submission to the editorial staff. As I sat before my "square headed boss" here at work, I realized I could not log into the system! For some reason, I sat before the computer and just could not remember my password, which was the same password I had used the night before! The thought then occurred to me, that I have different passwords for at least five different databases here at my

work place! (In fact, there may be more than five databases, but I can't recall just how many there are here either!)

This is compounded by my passwords for my home systems requiring even more memory. Fortunately or unfortunately, I also happen to be a student at a local university, which requires passwords to get into their computer systems as well! I was reminded of an article

I recently read where organizer of a conference for the "Infosecurity Europe 2004" announced they had surveyed office workers and found 71 percent were willing to part with their password for a chocolate bar. The issue still did not help me any when I could not log on to write this article. One can now even buy a Passwords Reminder Software program. Someone was thinking of me.

As luck would have it, I was able to finally remember the correct password and voila (!), one of the greatest discoveries in the last fifty years was good to go! However, the fact remains that tonight is my down night on technology night. I think I am suffering from technology information overload. Everywhere I turn there is technology. From the telephone to now the super advanced cell phones, information is being relayed all night, all night long at a pace that boggles the mind. Each of the officers carries a hand held radio even though they do not know the origin of word "walkie-talkie". Inside their vehicle is a mobile digital terminal, two-way radio, automatic vehicle locator, am-fm radio, and emergency operations equipment. Each of this bit of technology is so advanced it is beyond imagination. This information at the officer's disposal is just incredible. The good news is (maybe) that the technology will be better and more advanced.

I see the officers load all of their gear into their vehicles nightly, and fidget with all of the equipment at their disposal. It occurs to me that regardless of all the technology, we are still in a people business. The graveyard officers working in the still of the night make use of all the technology provided but respond as a person offering to help another person. Sometimes we begin to lean on the use of the technology so much so that we can't function without it. Without it, we become listless and cannot create on our own. Many times the officers have to complete reports by age old time test method of

hand writing when the computers are out of service. This brings me back to my original premise of the person being at the foundation of service. It is the officer who interviewed the person face to face. It is the officer who transcribed what he heard by pen to paper (Imagine that! To this day; pen and paper!). Finally, it is the officer who places the final report together by hand for submission and introduction into the criminal justice system.

None of these tasks is completed with technology. Much of what we do in policing still remains a personal touch. This is why the officer's personal skills are so important. Here on graveyards, it seems to be a motto that we are the only instant public service available to the citizen. The most important tool remains the officer's body. For it is with the officer's body that they use to control persons by their mere presence alone. They bring fear to the criminal and comfort to many others. By the officer's personal touch, they can resolve most issues during the night and the Graveyard Shift officers seem to realize that they are one of the only readily available problem solvers there to help all the people all of the time. I am constantly harping on quality, quality, and quality at every point in process with the personal touch.

Even our new Chief Wiles promotes that personal touch for the community, by asking that the officers do the right thing for the community and do the right thing for the Department. If our activities are ethical, legal, consistent with our values, and we can be accountable, then the Chief authorizes our actions. Thus after thirty years, technology has not altered the time-tested methods of true policing: problem-solving policing by persons and not technology. If policing loses the person-to-person interface, there will be real problems. I would submit that the private

sector has learned a hard lesson here and has returned to more or a personal touch to their activities. Just recall how aggravated you get

with those recorded messages you get with large companies. Technology is just the tool and not the answer. So, during the graveyard hours we will continue to push the personal touch with premium service. Now, if I can

only remember my password tomorrow!

So, until next month, Buckle Up, No Cell Phone while Driving, and Stay Safe!

Be on the Lookout – Crime and Hot Spots

Elderly Abuse

By CID Sergeant - Sgt. John Haddad

Elder abuse may be physical or psychological; it may be committed by a younger caregiver or household member upon an older friend or relation, or may occur between two older people who live together. Elder abuse can occur even when there is genuine love and affection between the people involved. Forms of elder abuse may be physical, emotional, financial or a combination of all three.

ABUSE: The National Center for Elder Abuse found that female victims constituted 62% of elder abuse cases. More than 12% involved financial or material exploitation. In those cases, 62% of the perpetrators were family members. Several ways to stop some abuse

- Use a POD account rather than the regular joint tenancy. POD means **paid on death**, which allows the beneficiary to receive funds but only upon death. It should stop the draining of the account while the benefactor is still alive
- Directly deposit social security checks. But remember, if the account is jointly held with the abuser, the financial abuse may continue.
- Consider bill paying services. They will control the money outflows.

- Appoint a representative payee to receive, sign and cash check s for federal benefits.

Points to Ponder

1. The majority of abused elderly cannot care for themselves.
2. The abuser was experiencing stress such as alcohol or drug addiction, sugar crashes, medical or financial problems, food allergies, etc. Often the elderly victims and the care they required were identified as the source of stress.
3. Violence begets violence. It's banked throughout life and spent on the person who has the least power over us. Sometimes violence continues from generation to generation as the normative response to stress.
4. Most older individuals are not abandoned by their children. Seventy-five percent of the elderly live with these children or live less than 30 minutes away. Eighty percent of home care to the aged is provided by family members living in the same household.
5. The middle aged adult today is more likely to have a living parent than his counterpart of the past.

If you suspect that an elderly or disabled person is being **abused, neglected, or ex-**

ploited and is in immediate danger, call 911 or 24-hour toll-free abuse hot line at (800) 252- local law enforcement. Or call the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services,

Prevention

Elderly and Domestic Abuse Prevention Unit

By Central D.A.R.T Officer Leticia Lujan & Case Manager Maria Elena Rivera

As we begin our focus with the Elderly we would like to share some precautions with our elderly community on Sexual Assaults.

Some everyday precautions can help you feel safer and more in control of your surroundings. The most common setting is in the home during the day.

- Avoid indications that you live alone. For example, use only your last name on your mailbox.
- Vary your daily routine. Try to make your comings and goings unpredictable to some extent.
- Try to make your home look as if you are there all the time. Don't attach notes to your door or let mail or newspapers pile up.
- Have friends or family check in on you at prearranged intervals. Keep emergency numbers on hand and a telephone by your bed. Never give personal information out over the phone and report obscene or odd phone calls to the police.
- Put an identifying number on all your valuables in a way that it can not be removed.
- Use direct deposit for all your regular checks. Do not keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Use a peephole or intercom to identify visitors. Require identification from anyone unknown to you and then check the

person out over the phone with their company. Never let a stranger in to use the phone or for any other reason.

- If someone does get in the house, remain calm and do not try to confront them. If you are able, escape, and call the police from a neighbor's house. If you are unable to get out of the house safely, then hide. If you do decide to defend yourself, be aware of your physical capabilities and your chances of success versus injury.
- On the street, don't walk alone, if possible, or take shortcuts that are unsafe.
- Keep your car doors locked. Look in the back seat before getting in. Have your keys ready. Lock yourself inside your car.

It is a shared community responsibility to care for and protect those who are most vulnerable in our society because many older people who are sexually assaulted do not tell anyone. They may feel shame, embarrassment, isolation, fear, or a sense of defeat after the assault. The police and/or your local sexual assault program can assist you in getting the care you need.

For assistance contact Officer Leticia Lujan at (915) 577-5202/5222, Ms. Rivera at (915) 577-5222, or by e-mail:

LujanL@elpasotexas.gov

RiveraME@elpasotexas.gov

Traffic Tip

Motorcycles and the Helmet Law

By Central Traffic Sergeant - Sgt. Raul Gomez

Since the fall semester will begin for most schools on August 16, 2004, I would like to review a very important traffic law, "Passing a School Bus" (1).

As we all know, one shall stop when approaching a school bus, from either direction, when the bus is operating a visual sign. This signal could be: flashing red lamps and/or movable stop arms (2). School bus drivers are mandated by state law to operate these signals when receiving or discharging passengers. One shall not proceed past the bus until:

- The bus resumes motion
- The bus driver signals you to proceed
- The visual signal is no longer actuated

You are not required to stop for a school bus if the bus is stopped at:

1. on a highway having separate roadways (if the bus is on the opposite roadway)
2. on the freeway (in a loading zone that is part of or adjacent to the highway or where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway)

Violators will receive a traffic citation (Class C Misdemeanor) unless somebody sustains serious bodily injury due to the violator's actions. In that case, the violation turns into a Class A Misdemeanor.

(1).- Transportation Code 545.066

(2).- Transportation Code 547.701

Officer of the Month

By Commander Raymundo Rodriguez

Officer F. Nevarez

&

Officer M. Campos

These outstanding officers were awarded the distinction of "Officer of the Month for June 2004". In a letter of commendation submitted by Sergeant Glenn Archer, the events surrounding their exceptional efforts were highlighted:

"On June 15, 2004, at 7:30 pm, Officer Frank Nevarez and Mark Campos responded to a Seven-eleven on Alameda in reference to a child endangerment. When the officers arrived they found a four-month old outside in his stroller exposed to the sun, unat-

tended, and with severe sun burn on his legs. He was suffering from the harshness of the elements and inadequate parenting.

The officers went inside and ascertained that the mother was intoxicated and beyond her faculties making her unable to care for the child. The mother left this little one unattended for about 20 minutes. This beautiful innocent child was also addicted to marijuana. The officers quickly reacted and took the mother into custody for endangering the child.

The clerks at the Seven-Eleven did the right thing for bringing this tragic event to the attention of the Police. Based on their actions

and the officer's quick response the child was brought into the safe and loving care of Child Protective Services."

Dealing with Stress? Recent Activity on the Beat

Welcome readers. Today I am going to talk about the everyday occurrences that test officer decision-making and stress coping skills. As police officers we are required to make life challenging, crime fighting and public welfare decisions on a daily basis. This can take a toll on the average officer's health. It is always better to remain as calm as possible. Remember cooler heads prevail.

A good example of this was the battle for Carthage around 250 B.C. (before common period) where Hannibal defeated the Roman Army even though he was outnumbered on a ratio of about 4 to 1. When the odds were against him he kept his cool and led his men into victory with the help of strategy. Police officers are required to be leaders in situations, as Hannibal displayed in this battle. Most officers in their noble quest to do the right thing are able to take control over situations rapidly, some more so than others, but for the most part all do this quickly.

The current examples that we have experienced this month at Central Regional Command include the following situations:

At the beginning of the month officers responded to the 200 block of Poplar on a burglary alarm; moreover, there was a person present that could not give the correct codes to the Alarm service. Officers arrived and

found the building to be secured, but kept hearing music and what appeared to be a person screaming for help. The officers conducted their research, contacted the key holder, and ascertained that there was a male inside the building. The key holder (authorized person) advised that he thought the male had left. This left the question was there exigent (emergency) circumstances to break in at the pleas of help or not. Based on the officers research, they found out that there was a large tropical talking bird that resided in the business, which had a habit of yelling for assistance when listening to the radio. No forced entry was made and the bird was fine.

The next one was a call that went out with most of the units tied up on a serious traffic accident on the freeway. The call went out as two men in ski masks, wearing black shirts reading "police", brandishing guns, and kicking in doors without a search warrant. The homeowner quickly ran out to ask neighbors for help. The neighbors in fear did not open the door, but as good Samaritans called the police. The police arrived but the victim was hiding and would not flag down officers. The correct address was not given on the home. The unit cruised until the victim felt he could approach the police. Officers arrived and closed the streets to avoid injury to on-lookers driving by. The victim finally

pointed out his home and a quick search and rescue team was formed, containing the home because it was believed the subjects were still inside. The victim raised the adrenaline level by stating that his granddaughter and daughter were still inside. Officers found the back door open to the foyer area and several doors kicked in during a quick surveillance. Entry was made and the home was cleared with the daughter and granddaughter being brought to safety. The home invaders left the scene prior to officers arrival, and the house was turned over to family members after the investigation was concluded. All these decisions were made in a matter of seconds to minutes when the threat to life was involved. Imagine this stress physically and mentally. The best way to deal with this is starting with diction and demeanor. Police are required to keep their calm about them and in control although stressors may be working against you; whether it be the outside physical environment or your own inside physical environment. By keeping your calm and showing it in your mannerisms and tone of voice this can have a resounding affect on the people around you. At first in the Battle for Carthage, Hannibal's followers thought he was losing it. Hannibal fought amongst the front lines to show leadership and to assure that the situation would pass; this alone rallied the people around him. At first thinking they were victims, they later realized they were victors. In the end his strategy surrounded the Romans and defeated them. This call led to a successful conclusion with arrests later based on the investigation.

The most notable for our shift was the arrest of a violent robber that had plagued the Chelmont business area. On 7-12-04, at 6:55 pm

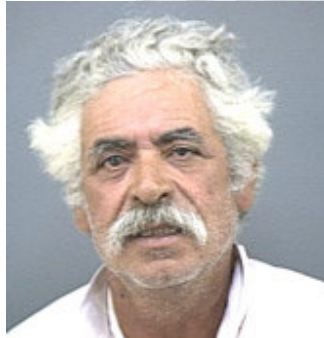
hours, the robber walked into a clothing store and robbed the store at knifepoint. Officers quickly arrived but were not able to locate the suspect. Unbeknownst to officers, the robber was living right behind the strip mall, which accounted for his quick disappearances. On 7-14-04, at 4:50 pm, the robber again hit a financial business robbing it at knifepoint. His greed then led him to quickly go down the street and rob another store at 5:00 pm within ten minutes of the previous one. He made good his getaway. A neighbor was in one of the stores and called a friend of hers on Mission Street to explain what all the excitement was about. As she described the robber to her friend, her friend calmly told her that she thought she was actually staring at the robber near her home. She decided to call police and entered a description and location of the home anonymously. Officers quickly responded. As police arrived the subject ran inside prior to officers approach. The officers now only had a vague description of the home while looking for a gray truck. There were several gray trucks in the area, but Officer Ben Grajeda had just heard a door slam at a home where there was such a truck. He calmly with help went to the home and the couple allowed him to enter. Inside the robber was located. It seemed the robber was temporarily staying with his relatives (the couple/residents of the home) and thought he could get away with his illicit gains. The robber was quickly arrested.

The job of a policemen requires you to test your decision-making skills at the flip of a switch. By remaining calm your cooler head will prevail.



Central's Most Wanted

By TAC Sergeant - Sergeant Mary Lou Carrillo



NAME: Joel Navar
DOB: 12/12/1948 — 56 yoa
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 180 lbs.
HAIR: Gray
EYES: Brown

CHARGE(S): Possession of Controlled Substance

If you have any information or know the whereabouts of the above individual, please call: Sgt. Mary Lou Carrillo at (915) 577-5313, or 577-5000 and speak with the Sergeant on duty. For information about all of "El Paso's Most Wanted", click on the link to the left.

Community Events

By Beatrice Najera

July 30, 2004 – Help End Auto Theft (HEAT) Drive

What: Vehicle Registration with the HEAT Program
Location: Bassett Center
Address: 6101 Gateway West
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

July 31, 2004 – Help End Auto Theft (HEAT) Drive

What: Vehicle Registration with the HEAT Program
Location: Clardy-Fox Library
Address: 5500 Robert Alva
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

(Continued on page 10)

**August, 3 2004 – National Night Out**

What: Neighborhoods come out in force to combat crime
Location: Various throughout City
Address: Various
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

August, 2 –7, 2004 – National Kid's Week

What: Celebration of our Children
Location: Various throughout City
Address: Various
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Note: If you would like additional information or would like to schedule a presentation or program, please call us at 838-8013.

Juvenile Investigations Section

PHOTO LINE-UPS FOR JUVENILES

By JIS Investigator, Officer Angel Becerril

Many tools are used within law enforcement to identify or attempt to identify suspects involved in criminal activity. One such tool is the photo line-up or sometimes referred to within certain circle as a photographic array.

As to the photographic arrays (Photo-lineups) for juveniles, the mechanics of conducting the array are the same for juveniles as for adults. However, there are legal requirements on obtaining the photographs of juveniles that must be observed. Failure to observe those requirements is to risk the array and any identification made from the array, might be excluded from evidence as a result of a law violation. Under current law, Section 58.002 of the Family Code, permits photographing a child taken into custody for a Class B Misdemeanor or more serious offense or with the consent of the juvenile court. In addition, under current law a law enforcement officer may photograph a child who is not in custody if the child's parent or guardian voluntarily consents in writing. Photographs of juveniles used in identification arrays must be obtained in accordance to those provisions.

If you have any questions or need assistance in this area, please contact one of our investigators:

1. Officer Angel Becerril – 849-2633
2. Officer Edward Mendoza – 849-2681
3. Officer Alex Bastidas – 849-2676

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2. Officer Edward Mendoza – 849-2681
3. Officer Alex Bastidas – 849-2676

For more information on the Juvenile Justice System and related issues, click on the link.



From the June 23, 2004, Faxforce

By Crime Prevention Officer Steve Crank

Traffic Focus

The Traffic Focus for the month of July will be Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) P.C. 49.04:

- A. A person commits an offense if the person is intoxicated while operating a motor vehicle in a public place.
- B. Except as provided by Subsection (c) and Section 49.09, an offense under this section is a class B misdemeanor, with a minimum term of confinement of 72 hours.
- C. If it shown that on the trial of an offense under this section that at the time of the offense the person operating the motor vehicle had an open container of alcohol in the person's immediate possession, the offense is a Class B misdemeanor, with a minimum term of confinement of six day

Did you know?

T.C. 545.415. Backing a vehicle

- A. An operator may not back the vehicle unless the movement can be made safely and without interference with other traffic.
- B. An operator may not back the vehicle on a shoulder or roadway of a limited-access or controlled-access highway **(Interstate/Freeway)**.

T.C. 547.332. Other lamps permitted.

A motor vehicle may be equipped with:

- 1. one or more backup lamps that:
 - A. emit an amber or white light only when the vehicle is **NOT** moving forward; and
 - B. may be displayed separately or in combination with another lamp.

Possible Child Molester

A possible child molester (Sex Predator) subject was seen in the area of Fillmore Av. The subject possibly hangs around the Grandview Swimming Pool and Nations Tobin Park Swimming Pool. The subject is described as a Hispanic Male, approx., 27 years of age, short brown hair and brown eyes. The subject is also described as being heavy set, approx. 200 lbs. He was last seen in a newer, light blue van with unknown Texas plates.

H.E.A.T. Registration

Central Regional Command Center will have two registration sites next week. The first one will be at the Clardy Fox Library, 5515 Robert Alva, on Friday August 30th, 2004. The times will be from 1PM to 3PM. The second will be at Bassett Center, 6001 Gateway W. The times for this registration are from 10AM to 2PM. Call 838-8013 for more information. This event is open to the public and is free.

National Night Out

Don't forget National Night Out is this August 3rd, 2004. Call the Crime Prevention Office at 838-8013 ext. 18 for more information.

Meet your PAR Officer



Officer J. Madrid
Ext. 17



Officer S. Weaver
Ext. 13
Community Service



Officer G. Soto
Ext. 11

Officer L. Mirabal
Ext. 18
Crime Prevention



Officer U. Sanchez
Ext. 16



Officer G. Furr
Ext. 15

Officer J. Rivera
Ext. 14
Community Service



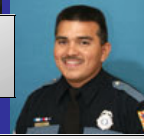
Officer GM. Alvarez
Ext. 21



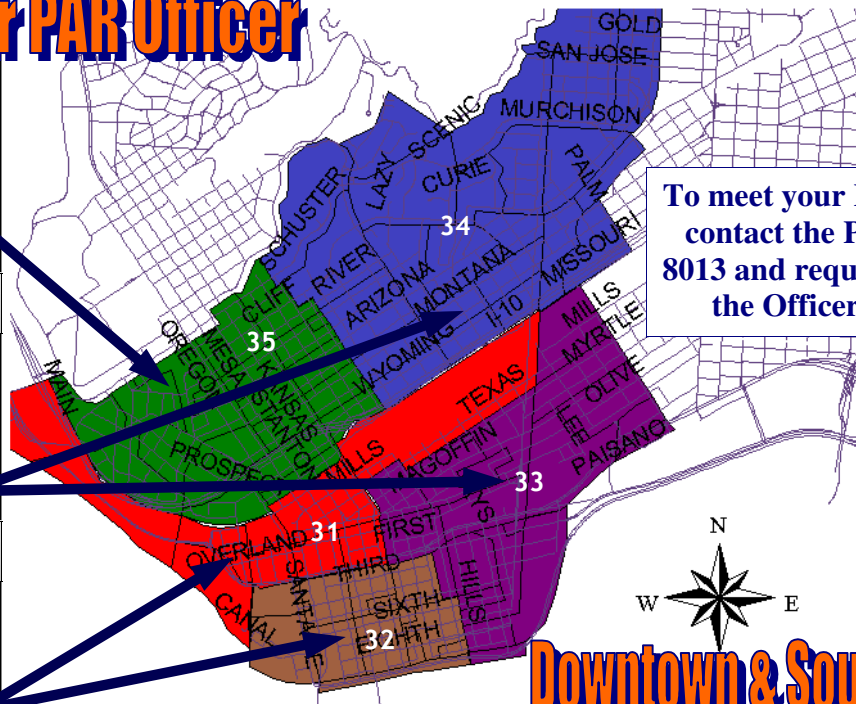
Officer J. Pacheco
Ext. 20



Officer S. Crank
Ext. 12
Crime Prevention

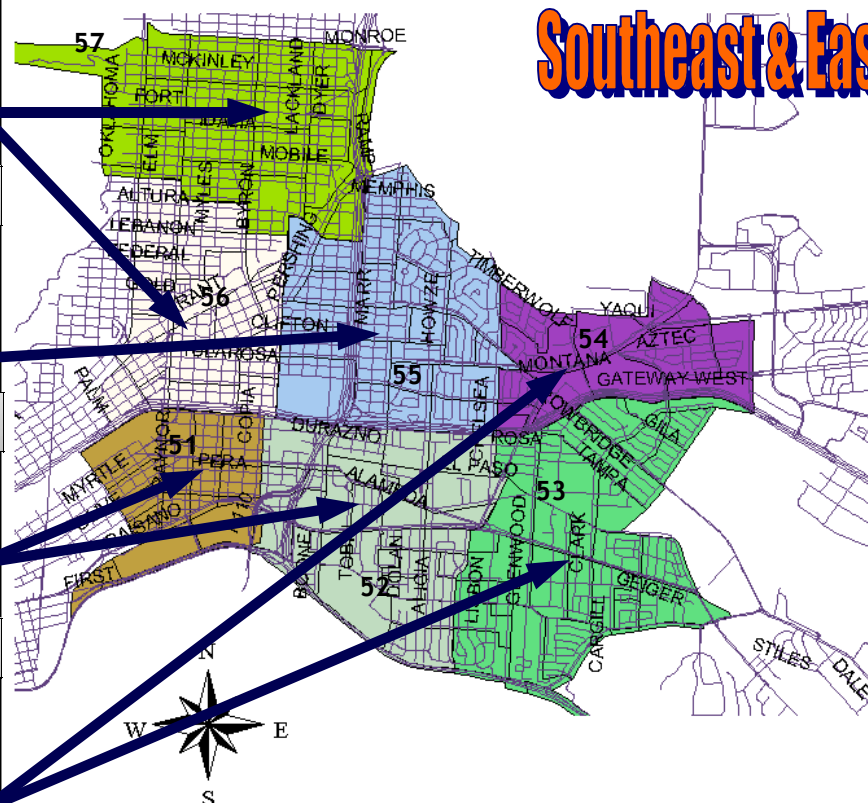


Officer L. Gomez
Ext. 19



To meet your PAR Officer, please contact the PAR Office at 838-8013 and request the extension of the Officer for your District

Downtown & South Central



Southeast & East Central



Central Regional Command Supervisory E-mail Listing

Regional Commander:

Commander Raymundo Rodriguez

rodriguezR3@elpasotexas.gov

Special Ops/Metro Unit:

Lt. Robert Pisarcik

pisarcikr@elpasotexas.gov

Bikes and Honor Guard:

Sgt. Jim Rodriguez

rodriguezjr@elpasotexas.gov

Sgt. Arthur Mc Dainel

arthurm@elpasotexas.gov

Traffic Unit:

Sgt. Raul Gomez

raulg@elpasotexas.gov

Sgt. Sonia Armitage

armitages@elpasotexas.gov

Police Area Rep (PAR) Unit:

Sgt. Patricia Reyes

reyespj@elpasotexas.gov

Criminal Investigations:

Lt. Charles Harvey

harveyc@elpasotexas.gov

Investigations:

Sgt. John Haddad

haddadj@elpasotexas.gov

Tactical (TAC) Unit:

Sgt. Marylou Carrillo

carrillom@elpasotexas.gov

Day Shift:

Lt. Tracy Pace

987@elpasotexas.gov

Evening Shift:

Lt. Richard Cortez

cortezre@elpasotexas.gov

Graveyard Shift:

Lt. Hank DiMatteo

dimatteoh@elpasotexas.gov

The Central Police Chronicle is
brought to you by:

Cmdr. Ray Rodriguez

Lt. Robert Pisarcik

Sgt. Pat. Reyes

Officer Gregory Furr

Special Contributors:

Lt. Hank DiMatteo

Sgt. John Haddad

Sgt. Raul Gomez

Sgt. Glenn Archer

Officer Steve Crank

Officer Leticia Lujan

Officer Angel Becerri

Beatrice Najera

Suggestions and comments can
be e-mailed to:

furg@elpasotexas.gov

or call us @

(915) 838-8013